

June 6, 1960

New York Historical Society
170 Central Park West
New York, New York

Gentlemen:

In a book entitled "Long Island Story" by Jacqueline Overton, New York, 1929, on pages 220 and 314 there is a reference to the fact that a portion of Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, was once called "Bungtown". Would it be possible for you to suggest the name of a society, or an individual, familiar with the early history of that area so as to enable me to locate further facts concerning this use of the name Bungtown.

I am writing an article on Bungtown Coinage and would like to run down each clue.

I am sending a duplicate of this letter to you in the event you wish to mail it directly to someone who would be a specialist in local history in that area.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb



THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1804

JAMES J. HESLIN
Director

170 CENTRAL PARK WEST
NEW YORK 24, N. Y.

June 20, 1960

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

In reply to your letter of June 6, 1960 may we suggest that you write to The Long Island Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn 1, New York and to The Huntington Historical Society, High Street, Huntington, Long Island, New York for whatever material may be available in those institutions concerning Cold Spring Harbor and the "Bungtown" area.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Heslin
Director

JJH:et

April 21, 1961

Long Island Historical Society
128 Pierrepont Street
Brooklyn 2, New York

Gentlemen:

I am doing some research in connection with the word "Bungtown". Cold Spring Harbor was nicknamed "Bungtown" at one time and it is necessary for me to know two things.

When was Cold Spring Harbor settled?

Was there a cask or barrel factory in that community?

I cannot locate any detailed history of the area in St. Louis and therefore wanted to ask you if there is anything written up on the history of Cold Spring Harbor.

I am Treasurer of the Missouri Historical Society and would appreciate your helpfulness.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

THE LONG ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

128 PIERREPONT STREET

BROOKLYN 1, NEW YORK

FOUNDED 1863

MAIN 4-0890

HELEN P. BOLMAN
LIBRARIAN

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PRESIDENT

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RECORDING SECRETARY

FREDERICK E. KUHNAST
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

April 25, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of April 21, Cold Spring Harbor is located in Huntington Township, Suffolk County, and some information concerning it may be available in histories of those localities.

Long Island; a History of Two Great Counties Nassau and Suffolk, edited by Paul Bailey (N.Y., 1949), volume 1, contains a historical sketch of the town of Huntington written by Martha K. Hall, late Librarian of The Huntington Historical Society. This account (page 349, of the volume) states that Cold Spring Harbor's settlement may be dated back to 1682, when John Adams had a grist-mill and saw-mill there.

In the limited time we are able to spend on research, we have not been able to find any information concerning the origin of the name Bungtown or concerning any cask or barrel factory in this village.

The Huntington Historical Society, High Street and New York Avenue, Huntington, New York, may be able to find this information for you. Last year this society printed a useful booklet entitled Main Street, Cold Spring Harbor, by Harriet G. Valentine, Andrus T. Valentine and Estelle V. Newman. Copies of this booklet may still be available for sale.

In 1953, The Cold Spring Harbor Village Improvement Society published a book entitled Cold Spring Harbor Soundings which contains a number of illustrations and much information concerning the locality. This book is not indexed and we were not able to find the information you need in it.

Very truly yours,

Helen P. Bolman
Librarian.

jm
Encl



From a drawing circa 1880

The Long Island Historical Society

128 Pierrepont Street, corner Clinton Street

Brooklyn 1, New York

The Long Island Historical Society

INCORPORATED 1863

OBJECTS

The object of the Society is to preserve whatever may relate to the history of the United States, the State of New York, and more particularly the four counties comprising Long Island. The collection contains over 100,000 volumes and thousands of pamphlets, including about sixty current historical and genealogical periodicals, housed in the Society's building which was erected in 1880 for this purpose.

LIBRARY

One of the strongest divisions of the library is local history, of which there are about 25,000 volumes of books and journals. There are state, county, town and church histories, and publications of nearly all the historical societies of the country. All the states are represented in the collection, but it is fullest for New York and New England.

LONG ISLAND

The specialty is the history of Long Island, for which the library has virtually every historical work of any importance, as well as pamphlets, newspapers, official reports, manuscripts, and maps. A few aspects of the collection may be noted briefly: (1) newspapers; (2) directories of Long Island, Brooklyn and New York City; (3) scrap-books of clippings and illustrations; (4) biographies; (5) writings of Long Island authors; (6) photographs, drawings, prints, and engravings of early houses, churches, and historical points; (7) portraits; (8) maps and atlases.

GENEALOGIES

Another outstanding division of the library deals with genealogy, consisting of over 12,000 volumes of individual family histories, exclusive of periodicals. A special feature is an extensive collection of typewritten and manuscript material, such as cemetery inscriptions, church records, family Bible records, vital records of all kinds, and wills. Files of genealogical periodicals comprise nearly all American titles of importance, together with military records and patriotic society registers. Scrap-books contain genealogical items from newspapers. The continued use of this collection by genealogists and those interested in tracing the history of their own families is one of the best reasons for the support and enrichment of this part of the Society's work. The field of heraldry is covered by the principal reference works relating to the subject.

The Long Island Historical Society

128 Pierrepont Street, corner Clinton Street

Brooklyn 1, New York

Publications of the Society

- Vol. 1. Journal of a voyage to New York, and a tour in several American Colonies in 1679-80. By Jasper Dankers and Peter Sluyter. Translated and edited by Henry C. Murphy. 47 + 440p. Brooklyn, 1867. 8°. \$10.00. (Not sold separately.)
- Vol. 2. The Battle of Long Island, with connected preceding events, and the subsequent American retreat. Introductory narrative by Thomas W. Field, with authentic documents. 9 + 549p. Brooklyn, 1869. 8°. \$10.00.
- Vol. 3. The Campaign of 1776, around New York and Brooklyn, including a new and circumstantial account of the Battle of Long Island, and the loss of New York. By Henry P. Johnston. 300 + 209p. Brooklyn, 1878. 8°. \$10.00.
- Vol. 4. George Washington and Mount Vernon. A collection of Washington's agricultural and personal letters. Edited by Moncure Daniel Conway. 92 + 352p. Brooklyn, 1889. 8°. \$5.00.
- Catalogue of the Library of The Long Island Historical Society. 801p. Brooklyn, 1893. 4°. \$5.00.
- Records of the Town of Jamaica, L. I., 1656-1751. Ed. by Josephine C. Frost. 3 vols. Brooklyn, 1914. 8°. \$15.00 for the set.
- Catalogue of American Genealogies in the Library of The Long Island Historical Society. Prepared under the direction of Emma Toedteberg. 660p. Brooklyn, 1935. 8°. \$25.00.
- The Long Island Historical Society, 1863-1938. A record: in commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Society in 1863. 76p. Brooklyn, 1938. 8°. \$3.00.
- The Long Island Historical Society Quarterly. Vol. 1, no. 1, January 1939—Vol. 4, no. 1, January 1942. Set \$7.50.
- General Washington's Spies, on Long Island and in New York. By Morton Pennypacker. 13 + 302p. Brooklyn, 1939. 8°. \$3.50.
- Historical markers and monuments in Brooklyn, a list. By Edna Huntington. 56p. Brooklyn, 1952. 8°. \$2.00.
- Outline of the history of fire fighting on Long Island. Compiled by Harriet Stryker-Rodda. 8p. Brooklyn, 1955. 8°. 25 cents.

Supplementing the local history and genealogy sections of the library are 15,000 volumes of biographies, 3,500 volumes on church history, and 3,000 volumes on general American history. From several special funds, the library has developed varied collections. One is for ecclesiastical history, featuring many early American sermons; another is for art history, especially the industrial arts and architecture, represented by 2,500 volumes.

MICROCARDS

A microcard reader and a collection of genealogies on microcards have been added, including the Catalogue of Genealogies in the Library of Congress.

MICROFILM

A microfilm reader and complete series of Federal census records for Long Island from 1790 to 1880 are now available. Newspapers on microfilm are being added.

EXHIBITS

Exhibits on special subjects of local interest are on display in the library.

DONATIONS

Gifts of material suitable for addition to these collections and donations for the support of the library are much appreciated.

The following list is suggestive of the kinds of material especially wanted:

Books and pamphlets on any Long Island subject, by Long Island authors, or printed on Long Island: Accounts of communities, landmarks and historical events: Family records, including family Bibles, letters and diaries: Any records, including histories and anniversary pamphlets of churches, lodges, and other organizations: House organs and histories of industrial and business firms: Scrap books, newspapers, maps, and photographs of places, events and persons.

HOURS

The library is open from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., daily except Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. It is closed in August.

MEMBERSHIP

In order to preserve these resources and to make them available to the public, it is desired to increase the membership and widen the scope of the work. The Society receives no public funds but depends for its income upon its endowment and the dues of its members. Applications for membership may be made at the library or through any member of the Society.

DUES

.....Contributing	\$25
.....Annual	10
.....Associate*	5
.....Student*	5
*Non-voting membership	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The growth of the library and the increased demands for service have made the present endowment of the LONG ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY insufficient to carry on its work satisfactorily and make the library useful to its fullest extent. The attention of the members and friends of the Society is called to the particular need of additional endowment and the need for special funds for publishing, for binding, and for the purchase of manuscripts, historical and genealogical works.

FORM OF BEQUEST

“I give and bequeath to THE LONG ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY the sum of dollars.”

FORM OF GIFT

Enclosed herewith is my check for dollars, as a contribution toward the work of the Society.

Gifts are deductible for income tax purposes.

April 28, 1961

Huntington Historical Society
High Street and New York Avenue
Huntington, New York

Gentlemen:

I am endeavoring to find out why Cold Spring Harbor was nicknamed "Bungtown" and whether Cold Spring Harbor had either a barrel manufactory or some other basis for that name between 1750 and 1840.

I understand that you printed a booklet entitled "Main Street-Cold Spring Harbor" and I am wondering whether any of the three authors might be able to answer my question. There is also a book, published in 1953, called "Cold Spring Harbor Soundings" and I would be interested in knowing who the author might be.

This research is being conducted in connection with a book I am writing on early American coinage. The name "Bungtown" seems to have been applied to certain early American copper coins and to certain early American cities.

I am sending extra copies of this letter to you to forward to any of those who are specialists in the Cold Spring Harbor background.

I was referred to you by the Long Island Historical Society and would appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

ORGANIZED 1903

Huntington Historical Society

2 High Street

HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK

May 8, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Store Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman;

We are so interested in hearing about your coming book on American coinage. It sounds like a most engrossing subject and we hope we can be of some assistance to you.

To begin by answering your first question. Yes, we did have a barrel factory which produced barrels for years in connection with our small Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Co. 1830 - 1860.

Our "Main Street" booklet dealt with the East Side of the harbor; Bungtown is on the West Side of the harbor and so wasn't mentioned. As for our village history "Cold Spring Harbor Soundings" it was a community project to commemorate our purchase of the land from the local Matinecock Indians in 1653. 12 neighbors

ORGANIZED 1903

Huntington Historical Society

2 High Street

HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK

wrote various chapters on phases of our history. The book was published by John Watkins & Co. 9 Murry Street, N.Y., N.Y. Mr. Walter K. Earle who is curator of our local Whaling Museum and who wrote a chapter on whaling might be able to help you, so I am sending him one of the copies of your letter. I am also handing your letter to a neighbor who is in his late 70's who lived in Bungtown. He too, might give you some interesting side lights.

My suggestion to you, if you want information in a hurry, is to sent for our history of Huntington. *Huntington - Babylon History* by Romanah Sammis. (\$2.50) This covers the history of Bungtown better than any source we know of at this time. If you send a check to the Huntington Historical Society we will get a book off to you post haste.

The name Bungtown was given in derision, just as Goose Hill, Turkey Lane, Mutton Hollow, Mount Misery etc. which are local place names. Some of the off color folk songs, sung by the old sailors, were referred to as Barrel Bung Ballads.

We do hope the above information will be of some help to you.

Letters to:

Walter K. Earle of Oyster Bay

Stanley C. Walters of Cold Spring Har.

Harriet S. Valentine
Mrs. Andrus T. Valentine, President

May 11, 1961

Mrs. Andrus T. Valentine
Huntington Historical Society
2 High Street
Huntington, New York

Dear Mrs. Valentine:

I am grateful for your prompt and fascinating answer to my inquiry concerning "Bungtown". I am looking forward to receiving a reply from any of the others to whom you have referred the inquiry.

I will gladly buy the Huntington-Babylon History if it contains the source reference of your statement that a barrel factory was used in connection with the whaling operations. I am also interested in your comment that songs sung by sailors were referred to as "Barrel Bung Ballads" and would very much like to have any source citation for that comment.

You will be interested in knowing that Westerly, Massachusetts, Lambertville, New Jersey, and North Swansea, Massachusetts were also called "Bungtown". The latter is, apparently, the original community so called in the eighteenth century and I am endeavoring to find any American use of the word "Bung" or "Bungtown" prior to that time.

Thank you, again, for your prompt and wholehearted cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPM/atb

Whaling Museum Society, Inc.

Cold Spring Harbor
New York



Whaling brig DAISY, 1872-1916,
built at Setauket by Nehemiah Hand

May 15, 1961

Mrs. Andrus T. Vallentine
Cold Spring Harbor
Long Island, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Vallentine:

Thanks for the copy of the letter of April 28 from Edison Brothers Stores, Inc., to the Huntington Historical Society. I am sure your reference to the Samis History of Huntington-Babylon should furnish the desired information about "Bungtown."

Cold Spring Harbor Soundings was a collection of articles by a lot of people - must have been seven or eight of them. Incidentally, I read, last winter, about a booklet which you and Andrus and Mrs. Newman had written about C.S.H. I intended to inquire earlier. I would like very much to have a copy if you have any leftovers. I read about it in the Long Island Forum.

Thanks also for the clipping about the pulpit prompted by Moby Dick. Actually, the pulpit in the Whalemen's Bethel at New Bedford is just the regular style of architecture of those days, with nothing resembling the pulpit shown in the movie of Moby Dick - which I thought ridiculous.

Sincerely,

Walter Earle

WKE:sh

George Earle Shankle (NY 1937)
American Nicknames

Cold Harbor Springs, New York

During the early decades of the nineteenth century, the western section of the town of Cold Harbor Springs, N.Y. was the site of so many cooper shops which did a flourishing business in making casks and barrels that this side of the town was popularly called Bungtown^②, a nickname which clung to it long after this business declined. A bung is the large stopper for the opening in the most protuberant part of a cask or a barrel.

② Long Island's Story
Jacquelin Overton (N.Y. 1929) p. 220
Doubleday Doran

Shankle
Cold Springs Harbor

Jacqueline Overton

Long Island's Story (Garden City 1932)

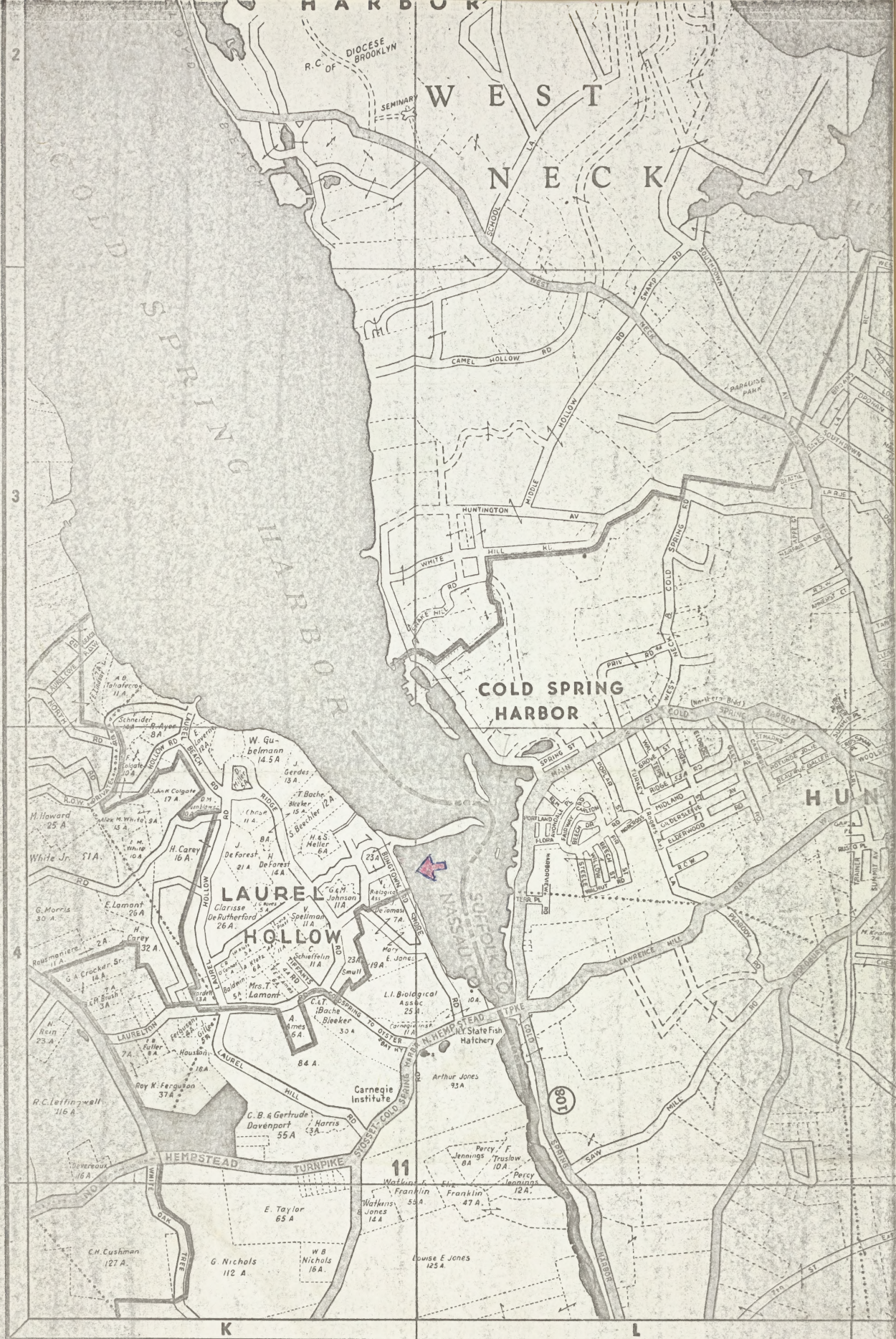
written in 1929

p. 270 (relating to Cold Spring Harbor)

Jones's wooden factory was kept busy turning off sailors' outfits, and on the west side of the harbor there were so many cooper shops for making casks and barrels that the section was nicknamed "Bungtown".

p. 314

As you ride through Cold Spring Harbor you will get a whiff of marsh grass and salt clams, and you can look across to Bungtown and see the State Fish Hatcheries on the causeway close to St. John's Church.



Eric — This from an old atlas in my land library (at least 20 yrs) Note the name "Jones" — these are the heirs of Col. Green — All this land has long since been subdivided! *Don*

A. J. EDWARDS — T. S. PRI
 Successor to C. P. DARLING — A. J. EDWARDS, Inc.
 LICENSED
 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND S
 Phone: Huntington 1224
 275 NEW YORK AVENUE

Laurel Hollow is an incorporated village.